show the necessity and worth of the hypotheses advanced. Throughout the inductive method of thought is predominant; but whether the impression left upon the mind of the average student by the disconnected introduction of principles is broad and clear, may be questionable, though the threads are, at least, left in such relation that they may be easily gathered up and properly interwoven.

Thermochemical phenomena claim very considerable attention from the outset, and re-actions are discussed in the light of the law of maximum work. Sometimes, indeed, as it seems, this principle is forced beyond its depth, and phenomena are made to appear as effects of an unvarying law, rather than as illustrations of a principle which has come to be regarded as of by no means universal application. In the main, the spirit of the book is scientific. It is full and minute in the description of processes and facts, well abreast with the times, and for the most part logical and clear, though occasional crudities in the use of English, and now and then an actual lapse from grammatical accuracy, mar, without excuse in a third edition, the general effect. Such faults, though rather less numerous than in the second edition, are particularly noticeable just where they are most undesirable, — in the passages which deal with theories and principles, — and are to be credited largely to the tendency of the translator to cling to the literal rendering of the original rather than strive for an intelligible version. We note with mingled feelings the slight — too slight — improvement over the second edition in the matter of the plate of spectra.

Woman and the Commonwealth. By GEORGE PELLEW. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin, & Co. 8°. 25 cents.

THE pamphlet here before us is a plea for woman suffrage; but we doubt if it will have much influence in promoting its object. The author is so violent a partisan, and so governed by sentiment, that what he says is more likely to repel than attract those whom he wishes to convert. He goes so far as to declare that women are superior to men, both intellectually and morally, and holds that woman's influence in politics would be both purifying and elevating. He examines some of the arguments that have been adduced on the other side, and answers some of them very conclusively; but his reply to others can hardly be considered satisfactory. Moreover, he does not notice what is to many men the chief objection to woman suffrage; namely, the danger that women would be liable to use their political power to enact moral reforms by law, to the great detriment of politics and of morality. There are good things in the pamphlet, however, and those who already agree with its views will doubtless take pleasure in reading it.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE first number of *The American Anthropologist* has just been issued. It is highly gratifying to record the establishment of a journal of this scope and character, as it is a sure sign of the growing interest in anthropology. The Anthropological Society of Washington, under whose auspices the journal is published, must be congratulated in its new enterprise, which will be highly welcomed by all students of the science of man. The papers contained in the first number show that the journal will embrace all the numerous branches of anthropology. Dr. James C. Welling contributes an inquiry into the law of Malthus; and it is significant of the Washington school of anthropologists that the first paper is devoted to a study in sociology. Col. F. A. Seely, who has so successfully applied the methods used by the Patent Office for tracing inventions to ethnological questions, gives a review of the development of time-keeping in Greece and Rome. Dr. Frank Baker's 'Anthropological Notes on the Human Hand' deals not only with the physiognomy of the hand, but also with current and ancient beliefs referring to the hand. The last paper of the number is a study of the Chane-abal tribe and dialect of Chiapas, by Dr. D. G. Brinton, in which the learned author compares the extant relics of that language, and gives it its proper place among the Maya dialects. Among the articles promised for future numbers, we notice papers by Maj. J. W. Powell, 'From Barbarism to Civilization;' H. H. Bates, 'Discontinuities in Nature's Methods;' and Dr. A. B. Meyer, 'The Nephrite Question.'

— A despatch from Zanzibar says that messengers from Emin Pacha who passed Uganda on Nov. 17 had no news whatever from Stanley, and that no news of his approach had been received in Wadelai. Further, it is stated in the telegram that King Mwanga has taken a friendly attitude towards Europeans. As Wadelai is only twelve days distant from Uganda, it appears that Stanley had not reached Emin's province in the middle of October. The next mail from the Kongo, which is due towards the end of this month, will probably bring some information regarding the events at Stanley Falls and at the mouth of the Aruvimi, which must have been of some influence upon Stanley's expedition. It seems unnecessary, so far, to entertain serious apprehensions as to his safety.

— "A large circle of admirers, both English and American," says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, "will see with pleasure that the Murchison medal of the Geological Society is to be conferred this year on Dr. J. S. Newberry of New York, the well-known professor of Columbia College. Dr. Newberry, however, has been in his time active, and indeed distinguished, in other matters besides geology. 'I remember,' writes a correspondent, 'meeting him by chance in Nashville in November, 1863, when he was at the head of the Western department of the Sanitary Commission, — an immense organization whose business it was to dispense, for the benefit of the soldiers of the Republic, great quantities of stores, consisting mainly of medicines, clothing, and comforts of all sorts, subscribed by enthusiastic citizens of the Northern States. Dr. Newberry took me down with him from Nashville to the then seat of war, on the boundary of Georgia, and I can bear witness to the workmanlike manner in which he administered his department, and the devotion with which he was regarded by all his assistants."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Errors in 'The Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley.'

IT is an ungracious task to criticise at this late day the work of Messrs. Squier and Davis, which has so long been received as the standard on North American archæology; nevertheless I believe the result will be accepted as a sufficient justification for the attempt.

It is stated in the text (p. 68), under the heading 'The Newark Works,' that the circular structure *E* "is not, as has been generally represented, a true circle; its form is that of an ellipse, its diameters being twelve hundred and fifty feet and eleven hundred and fifty feet respectively. . . . The area of the enclosure is something over thirty acres."

A short calculation will make it evident that an ellipse having the diameters given above will enclose only twenty-six acres. We also notice, that, notwithstanding the authors' statement in the text, their plate (XXV.), which is copied from Colonel Whittlesey's survey, makes the shorter diameter (Section *C–D*), 1,200 feet.

A careful resurvey by the agents of the Bureau of Ethnology makes the diameters 1,205 and 1,197 feet, the latter differing but three feet from Colonel Whittlesey's measurement. The figure is therefore very nearly a true circle, the difference between the diameters being only eight feet, instead of one hundred as given by Squier and Davis.

They also state that the circular enclosure *F*, which connects with the Octagon, "is a true circle two thousand eight hundred and eighty feet, or upwards of half a mile, in circumference." This gives a diameter of but 917 feet, while the section *A–B* of the plate makes it 1,050 feet, — measuring from the gateway to the observatory, — a difference of one hundred and thirty-three feet between the text and plate. According to the survey made by the agents of the bureau, this diameter is 1,058 feet, and the one transverse to it 1,054 feet; the figure varying, in fact, but little from a true circle.

It appears from these facts that the authors, although adopting Colonel Whittlesey's survey in their plate, have differed from it in their text without a word of explanation, the variation in each case being a blunder on their part.

The area of the Octagon, as shown by the resurvey, is but a small fraction over thirty-six acres, including the inner halves of the walls; whereas it is given on the plate as fifty acres, and in the text as "something over fifty acres."